

Table 4. Percentage of information sheets with partial or full adherence to drug-specific sub-criteria: Ibuprofen n = 265

<i>Criteria for evaluating usefulness of written information</i>	% partial or full adherence
1. Written information identifies drug and its benefits.	
' generic (ibuprofen) and brand name (if dispensed a brand name, ex., Motrin), phonetic spelling	98.9
' used to relieve mild to moderate pain; pain, stiffness and swelling assoc w/ rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and primary dysmenorrhea; also reduces fever	94.7
' drug class (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, often abbreviated NSAID)	78.9
2. Information includes specific directions about how to take medication, receive maximum benefit and interpret benefits.	
' take with meals or milk to minimize GI effects; take with liquid; may combine with antacids	99.2
' if taken for arthritis, take regularly as prescribed; pain relief occurs w/in hour but anti-inflammatory effect occurs after 1-2 weeks of adequate dosage	83.2
' take missed dose ASAP; skip if almost time for next dose	86.0
3. Information identifies contraindications and what to do if applicable.	
' do not take if allergic to aspirin or other NSAID example, indomethacin, naproxen	68.3
' make sure provider knows about other medical problems that may affect use of ibuprofen, especially: ulcer disease, heart disease, blood pressure, kidney or liver dysfunction, coagulation defects /use of anticoagulants, impending surgery	43.8
' check with provider if pregnant or nursing; not to be used in children under 6 months of age	34.0
4. Information includes specific precautions while using medicine, their significance, and how to avoid harm.	
' not recommended to combine with aspirin because there is no known benefit	77.7
' long term use without proper monitoring should be avoided; patients at risk for kidney problems are those with impaired kidney function, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and the elderly	16.2
' use caution when taking other OTC products that contain ibuprofen, do not exceed 3200mg daily	66.4

Table 4 (Cont)

5. Information includes enough detail for proper monitoring and interpretation of serious or frequently occurring adverse reactions.	
' stop taking and call provider immediately if: severe GI effects occur for ex., bleeding, ulceration, black or bloody stools; effects may result in hospitalization, may be fatal	95.5
' tell provider about rash, if other side effects do not go away or are bothersome, incl: GI disturbances , blurred vision, weight gain or retention	98.9
' other side effects may occur, check with provider	88.7
6. Information includes proper storage instructions and general information.	
' store at room temperature, away from excess heat or moisture and away from children	87.9
' includes disclaimer that this leaflet does not contain all possible information, provider can give additional information	42.6
' includes information stating that medicine should only be used by patient and not given to others, may request non-child resistant caps	15.1
7. Written information is unbiased in content and tone.	
' neutral in content and tone	99.2
' does not contain promotional messages about product or compare to other brands (may compare chemical entities)	99.6
' fair balance re benefits/risks	94.3
8. Information is legible and readily comprehensible to most consumers.	
' written clearly; avoids long sentences; avoids or explains polysyllabic terms	97.7
' layout calls attention to or makes it easy to locate important information, for ex., bullets, brief reinforcement separate from main text, headings, bold-face type or box	93.6
' printed in 10-point type or larger (this is 10-point type), w/ upper and lower case letters, good contrast, and adequate space between lines and paragraphs	88.7
9. Written information is scientifically accurate.	
' indication for use consistent w/ FDA labeling: relieves mild to moderate pain; pain, stiffness and swelling associated with rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and primary dysmenorrhea	95.8
' notes that medication may be used for other purposes; communication with provider is encouraged	85.7
' general guide does not include information about non approved uses	94.0
10. Information is up-to-date and timely.	
' includes publisher name and date of publication (not date printed for prescription use) or most recent revision	50.2
' any additional information is consistent with current FDA approved labeling or federally recognized compendia	84.2

Note: Table excludes individuals who were not given any written information.

Table 5. Percentage of information sheets with partial or full adherence to drug-specific sub-criteria: Amoxicillin n = 266

<i>Criteria for evaluating usefulness of written information</i>	% partial or full adherence (n)
1. Written information identifies drug and its benefits.	
' generic (amoxicillin) and brand name (when dispensed a brand of amoxicillin, ex., Amoxil, Trimox), phonetic spelling	91.8
' drug class (penicillin antibiotic)	82.3
' used to treat bacterial infection, incl: respiratory, urinary, skin, venereal; not for common cold, flu, other virus infections	93.5
2. Information includes specific directions about how to take medication, receive maximum benefit, and interpret benefits..	
' works best if taken at evenly spaced times, do not miss doses	83.1
' take missed dose ASAP; skip if almost time for next dose	87.3
' take with liquid and with or without food	80.1
' finish medicine even if feel better in a few days	94.5
3. Information identifies contraindications and what to do if applicable.	
' do not take if allergic to amoxicillin or other penicillins and cephalosporins	78.7
' check with provider if pregnant or nursing; make sure provider knows about other medical problems	29.8
4. Information includes specific precautions while using medicine, their significance, and how to avoid harm.	
' oral contraceptives may not work properly, use additional methods	78.7
' diabetic urine tests may be affected, check with provider before changing diet or diabetes medication; other medical tests may be affected, tell provider before tests	67.0

Table 5 (Cont)

<p>5. Information includes enough detail for proper monitoring and interpretation of serious or frequently occurring adverse reactions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' stop taking and call provider immediately if: severe skin rash, hives, or itching; difficulty breathing or swallowing; severe diarrhea or stomach cramps ' tell provider if side effects do not go away or are bothersome, incl: mild skin rash, upset stomach and mild diarrhea ' other side effects may occur, check with provider 	<p>85.3</p> <p>88.4</p> <p>81.9</p>
<p>6. Information includes proper storage instructions and general information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' store at room temperature, away from excess heat or moisture and away from children ' includes disclaimer that this leaflet does not contain all possible information, provider can give additional information ' includes information stating that medicine should only be used by patient and not given to others; may request non-child resistant caps 	<p>86.9</p> <p>51.7</p> <p>25.8</p>
<p>7. Written information is unbiased in content and tone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' neutral in content and tone ' does not contain promotional messages about product or compare to other brands (may compare chemical entities) ' fair balance re benefits/risks 	<p>97.3</p> <p>97.3</p> <p>92.9</p>
<p>8. Information is legible and readily comprehensible to most consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' written clearly; avoids long sentences; avoids or explains polysyllabic terms ' layout calls attention to or makes it easy to locate important information, for ex., bullets, brief reinforcement separate from main text, headings, bold-face type or box ' printed in 10-point type or larger (this is 10-point type), w/ upper and lower case letters, good contrast, and adequate space between lines and paragraphs 	<p>96.5</p> <p>96.5</p> <p>92.1</p>
<p>9. Written information is scientifically accurate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' indication for use consistent w/ FDA labeling: treats bacterial infection, incl: respiratory, urinary, skin, venereal ' encourages communication with provider about the use of this medicine ' general guide does not include information about non approved uses 	<p>96.0</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>98.2</p>
<p>10. Information is up-to-date and timely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ' includes publisher name and date of publication (not date printed from prescription use) or most recent revision ' any additional information is consistent with current FDA approved labeling or federally recognized compendia 	<p>54.1</p> <p>67.2</p>

Note: Table excludes individuals who were not given any written information. Denominators vary slightly due to incomplete data from one panelist.

Table 6 (Cont)

Table 6. Percentage of information sheets with partial or full adherence to drug-specific sub-criteria: Paroxetine n=266

<i>Criteria for evaluating usefulness of written information</i>	% partial or full adherence
1. Written information identifies drug and its benefits.	
' generic (paroxetine) and brand (Paxil) names, phonetic spelling	88.7
' drug class (antidepressant); selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor often abbreviated as SSRI	92.5
' used to treat depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and panic disorder	92.5
2. Information includes specific directions about how to take medication, receive maximum benefit, and interpret benefits.	
' take same time daily, do not miss dose	79.7
' take missed dose ASAP; skip if almost time for next dose	87.6
' may notice improvement in 1 to 4 wks, but generally is continued for several months or longer; talk w/ provider about treatment length	78.2
' take with liquid and with or without food	64.7
3. Information identifies contraindications and what to do if applicable.	
' do not start paroxetine and check with provider if currently taking a Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI) ie phenelzine (Nardil) or tranylcypromine (Parnate)	30.5
' make sure provider knows about previous medical problems because may affect use of paroxetine	62.0
' check with provider if pregnant or nursing; safety and efficacy in pediatric population has not been established	90.6
4. Information includes specific precautions while using medicine, their significance, and how to avoid harm.	
' talk with provider before taking OTCs or other prescription medications	88.0
' alcohol not recommended because of depressant effects, use sparingly if at all	98.5
' avoid operating hazardous machinery, incl automobiles, until certain how paroxetine effects cognitive/motor skills	79.7
' do not stop suddenly, talk with provider	85.3
' if more than the recommended dose has been taken, contact local poison control center or emergency room; symptoms of overdose include: pupils, severe drowsiness, severe nausea, vomiting, racing heartbeat and severe dry mouth	79.7
5. Information includes enough detail for proper monitoring and interpretation of serious or frequently occurring adverse reactions.	
' nausea and dizziness may be experienced at beginning of medication use but usually subsides	94.7
' other common side effects include: anxiety, drowsiness, dry mouth, weakness, decreased libido, changes in sexual function	99.6
' other side effects may occur, check with provider	85.7
6. Information includes proper storage instructions and general information.	
' store at room temperature, away from excess heat or moisture and away from children	86.8
' includes disclaimer that this leaflet does not contain all possible information, provider can give additional info	61.3
' includes information stating that medicine should only be used by patient and not given to others; may request non-child resistant caps	40.2
7. Written information is unbiased in content and tone.	

Table 6 (Cont)

' neutral in content and tone	99.6
' does not contain promotional messages about product or compare to other brands (may compare chemical entities)	100.0
' fair balance re benefits/risks	96.6
8. Information is legible and readily comprehensible to most consumers.	
' written clearly; avoids long sentences; avoids or explains polysyllabic terms	98.9
' layout calls attention to or makes it easy to locate important information, for ex., bullets, brief reinforcement separate from main text, face type or box	94.0
' printed in 10-point type or larger (this is 10-point type), w/ upper and lower case letters, good contrast, and adequate space between paragraphs	96.2
9. Written information is scientifically accurate.	
' indication for use consistent w/ FDA labeling: treats depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and panic disorder	94.4
' notes that it may be used for other purposes; communication with provider is encouraged	74.4
' general guide does not include info about non approved uses	98.9
10. Information is up-to-date and timely.	
' includes publisher name and date of publication (not date printed for prescription use) or most recent revision	54.1
' and additional information is consistent with current FDA approved labeling or federally recognized compendia	85.7

Note: Table excludes individuals who were not given any written information.